DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 197 091 CE 027 630

AUTHOR Chan, Teresita; Fowles, Donald G.
TITLE The Older Worker. Statistical Reports on Older Americans, No. 6.
INSTITUTION Administration on Aging (DHEW), Washington, D.C. National Clearinghouse on Aging.
REPORT NO DHHS-OHDS-81-20265
PUB DATE Oct 80
NOTE 37p.; Table 15 will not reproduce well due to small print.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Comparative Analysis; Demography; Economic Factors; Educational Background; *Employment Patterns; Females; Individual Characteristics; *Labor Force; Males; Marital Status; Middle Aged Adults; Minority Groups; Older Adults; Race; *Retirement; Sex; Social Influences; Tables (Data); *Unemployment; Work Attitudes
IDENTIFIERS *Older Workers

ABSTRACT

Trends in the labor force participation and unemployment of older workers were reviewed in a study. A declining rate of labor force participation by older men and a growth in participation by older women were noticed. Examination of labor force participation rates by race revealed a higher participation rate for minority women than for older white women. Participation is positively correlated to level of educational attainment. Older married men are more likely to be in the labor force than other men. For women, the opposite is true. The trend toward early retirement is continuing. The industrial and occupational distribution of elderly workers differs from that of younger workers due to such factors as pension and retirement policy, physical demands, employment opportunities, and educational requirements. Examination of differences in the level of unemployment among older workers by age, sex, and race demonstrated that the duration of unemployment is longer for older workers, particularly men. The future employment picture for older workers will depend on such factors as declining birth rates, better education, inflation, and the effect of retirement on the physical and emotional health of the individual. Current experiments in phased retirement may become more widespread. (Fifteen tables are included.) (MN)

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DHHS Publication No. (OHDS) 81-20265

FEB 2 1981

THE OLDER WORKER

By
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INTRODUCTION

This report examines selected characteristics of older workers, such as sex, race, marital status, and education. It also discusses trends in employment, occupation, and industry. The report includes a set of 15 detailed tables which contain historical or current data on a variety of characteristics of older workers. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of selected labor force characteristics and trends, rather than an in-depth analysis. This report focuses on workers 55 years old and over. The term "pre-elderly" will refer to those 55-64 years of age and "elderly" to those 65 years old and over.

CHARACTERISTICS OF OLDER WORKERS

This section will examine the characteristics of the older worker in terms of sex, race, marital status, and the relationship between educational attainment and labor force participation.

Sex

Trends in labor force participation for men and women over the last several decades are decidedly different. Elderly men have withdrawn steadily from the labor force during this period. Only 20% of men 65 years and older were in the labor force in 1979, compared to 46% in 1950 (Table 1). Pre-elderly men have also decreased their level of participation in the labor force, although

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*Formerly of the Statistical Analysis Staff

most of this decrease occurred during the 1960's and particularly the 1970's. Their participation rate fluctuated between 87% and 89% during the 1950's, declined slowly to 83% during the 1960's, and fell more rapidly to 73% during the 1970's.

Pre-elderly women, on the other hand, have been participating in the labor force at an increasing rate. Their rate rose from 27% in 1950 to 43% in 1969, and levelled off around the 41% mark since 1975. In 1979 it stood at 42%. The labor force participation of elderly women has been low and fairly constant during this period. Their participation rate fluctuated between 9% and 11% during the 1950's, 1960's, and early 1970's. It dropped to 8% in 1974 and remained there during the latter 1970's. 1/

Several factors have influenced the trend of lower labor force participation among older males. Passage of the Social Security Act and its amendments, including the early retirement provisions effective in mid-1961 for men and late 1956 for women, provided older persons with a guaranteed retirement income. Increasing private pension coverage has supplemented this income, and the Medicare and Medicaid programs have decreased fears about the effects of medical expenses after retirement. Disability insurance programs have enabled workers with health problems to withdraw from the labor force prematurely.

In addition, persons reaching retirement age have become increasingly better educated and have worked in higher paying occupations than their predecessors. The average income of elderly families and individuals has increased over twice as fast as the rate of inflation over the last 25 years. Thus, more older persons have been able to afford an earlier retirement.

1/ U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Table A-2.

During the 1950's, the growth in the female labor force was concentrated in the middle and upper age brackets. These were primarily women whose child-bearing years were behind them and who were entering or reentering the labor force after their children had advanced in school or had left home. Of the net increase of 4.9 million women in the labor force during that decade, 70% were 45 years or older.

During the 1960's and 1970's, however, several factors converged to cause this percentage to drop as the number of younger women entering the labor force mushroomed. Among these factors were the postponement of marriages and child-bearing, declining fertility rates, the rise of the "human potential" and "women's liberation" movements, increasing divorce rates, and a general economic expansion during the 1960's which created employment opportunities for women [2/] followed by a general economic slowdown or contraction during the 1970's coupled with high inflation rates which forced many young wives into the labor force in order to maintain their families' standard of living. As a result, the proportion of the net increase in the female labor force which consisted of women 45 years or older fell from 70% in the 1950's to 31% in the 1960's and only 7% in the 1970's.

Race

Since 1954, the first year for which annual data on labor force participation by race are available, pre-elderly White males have had a higher participation rate than their minority counterparts. In 1979, the participation rate for Whites was 74% compared to 67% for minorities (Table 3). Among elderly males, there is little difference in participation rates between

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2/ Among the events during the 1960's that created such opportunities were (1) the war in Vietnam, which diverted many young men from the civilian labor force, and (2) the rise in Federal non-defense spending, which rose nearly twice as fast as defense spending during the decade despite the war. For historical data on the Federal budget, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1979, Table 424.

Whites and minorities. The participation rate for both groups fell by half between 1955 and 1979, from 40% to 20%.

Unlike men, older minority women have been more likely to participate in the labor force than older White women. Among pre-elderly women, this difference has narrowed considerably. The 1979 participation rate for pre-elderly minority women (44%) was only four percentage points higher than in 1955, whereas the rate for White women in this age group (42%) was ten points higher. The participation rate for elderly minority women has been consistently 2 to 3 points higher than for elderly White women.

Marital Status

The labor force participation of older persons who are married and living with their spouse is considerably different from the participation of older persons who do not have marriage partners in the household. Older married men are more likely to be working than their unmarried counterparts, whereas married women are less likely to work than older women. Among older women, both pre-elderly and elderly, those who have never married have the highest labor force participation rates (Table 4).

The trend in labor force participation for older men has generally been downward, regardless of marital status. This has also been true of older single (never married) women, who are more likely to have worked throughout their younger adult years. The participation of pre-elderly married women has increased from about one-fifth in the mid-1950's to over one-third in the 1970's, and the rate for pre-elderly women who are widowed, divorced, or separated has remained in the 50-55% range for most of this period. The rates for elderly women who are either living with their husband or are widowed, divorced, or separated have remained at low levels consistently throughout this period.

Education

At all working age levels there is a positive correlation between educational attainment and labor force participation, and this relationship is even stronger for upper age groups (Table 5). In 1979, the participation rate for pre-elderly males with an elementary education was 64%; with a high school education, 77%; and 88% with 5 or more years of college. This pattern is true for both sexes within the elderly and pre-elderly groups.

Another way of looking at this is to compare the educational attainment of persons in the labor force to those who are not in the labor force (Table 6). For example, the median number of years of school for pre-elderly males in the labor force was 12.4 years in 1979, compared to only 11.2 years for those not in the labor force.

Although younger workers enjoy an advantage educationally over older workers, this gap is dimishing with time. The senior citizens of tomorrow will be better schooled and more skilled than the ones of today; hence they should be able to improve their relative position in a changing job market. The improvement in median school years completed for the two older age groups from 1959 to 1979 has been considerable. The median for pre-elderly and elderly workers has increased over the last 20 years from about 9 years to over 12 years (Table A).

Retirement

The decision to retire is a complex one. It can be influenced by many factors, including involuntary ones such as compulsory retirement policies, plant closings, or work force lay-offs, and voluntary reasons such as dissatisfaction with job, poor health, family or personal reasons, or a simple desire to stop working.

Table A. MEDIAN SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED FOR PERSONS 55 YEARS AND OVER BY AGE AND SEX: 1959-1979

Sex and year (as of March)	55-64 years		65+ years	
	Total	In labor force	Total	In labor force
MALE				
1959	8.7	8.8	8.2	8.5
1969	10.3	10.9	8.6	9.0
1978	12.2	12.3	9.2	11.7
1979	12.3	12.4	9.6	12.1
FEMALE				
1959	8.9	10.0	8.4	8.8
1969.....	10.7	12.1	8.7	10.2
1978	12.2	12.4	10.0	12.1
1979	12.3	12.4	10.3	12.2

Source: Data for "in labor force" from Bureau of Labor Statistics as published in Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Table B-11, and unpublished data from the March 1979 Current Population Survey (CPS). Data for "total" from Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 356, Table 1, and earlier reports in this series.

Data from the Social Security Administration show that the proportion of newly retired workers who have retired before reaching the age of 65 has risen considerably since 1962, the first full year of operation of the early retirement provisions for both sexes under the amendments to the Social Security Act. Among newly retired men who began receiving retired worker benefits, the proportion who chose to retire early and take a reduced level of benefits as a consequence rose from 51% in 1962 to 68% in 1977 (Table B). Among women, the increase was from 62% to 78%. Thus, nearly three-fourths of new retirees are choosing early retirement under the Social Security program.

Table B. ALL RETIREMENT AWARDS MOVING TO PAYMENT STATUS AND REDUCED AWARDS DUE TO EARLY RETIREMENT, BY SEX: 1962-77

Year	All awards (thousands)			Reduced awards					
				Number (thousands)			Percent of all awards		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
1977 ..	1,471	855	616	1,064	583	481	72	68	78
1976 ..	1,377	808	569	972	533	439	71	66	77
1975 ..	1,412	873	539	964	531	432	68	61	80
1974 ..	1,372	766	606	903	484	420	65	63	69
1973 ..	1,548	897	650	912	485	426	60	54	70
1972 ..	1,334	797	537	843	449	394	63	56	73
1971 ..	1,259	752	507	799	430	369	63	55	71
1970 ..	1,245	749	496	745	398	348	60	53	70
1969 ..	1,141	691	449	689	367	321	60	53	71
1968 ..	1,111	677	435	675	367	308	61	54	71
1967 ..	1,032	633	399	636	351	284	62	55	71
1966 ..	1,136	668	468	631	345	286	56	52	61
1965 ..	979	601	379	579	319	261	59	53	69
1964 ..	976	601	375	586	324	263	60	54	70
1963 ..	1,066	675	391	613	353	261	58	52	67
1962 ..	1,270	837	433	693	423	270	55	51	62

Source: Social Security Administration, Social Security Bulletin, Statistical Supplement, 1977 (forthcoming), Table 58.

Evidence from several studies indicates that health problems represent a major factor in the retirement decision. For example, one study reported that 54% of a sample of men 62-64 years of age who had opted for early retirement in July-December 1968 had done so for health reasons. [3/] Another study, a sample survey of persons 65 years and over in 1975, reported that 39% of male retirees and 34% of female retirees had retired because of poor health. [4/]

3/ Virginia Reno, "Why Men Stop Working Before Age 65," in Reaching Retirement Age, Social Security Administration, Research Report No. 47, 1976, p. 43.

4/ Ethel Shanas, National Survey of the Aged, prepared for the Administration on Aging under Project No. HEW OHD 90-A-369, Table 9-9A.

Table C. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS 55 YEARS AND OVER, BY AGE AND SEX: 1979

(Annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Employment status and sex	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	55+, total	55-64	65+	55+, total	55-64	65+	55+, total	55-64	65+
Total	44,055	20,713	23,342	19,399	9,782	9,617	24,656	10,931	13,725
In civilian labor force	14,792	11,719	3,073	9,068	7,140	1,928	5,724	4,579	1,145
Percent of total	33.6	56.6	13.2	46.7	73.0	20.0	23.2	41.9	8.3
Employed	14,349	11,380	2,969	8,807	6,946	1,861	5,542	4,434	1,108
Unemployed	443	338	105	260	193	67	183	145	38
Percent of labor force	3.0	2.9	3.4	2.9	2.7	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.3
Not in labor force	29,263	8,994	20,269	10,331	2,642	7,689	18,932	6,352	12,580

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 3.

EMPLOYMENT

This section will examine the employment patterns of older workers with regard to industry, occupation, part-time work, and self-employment.

Employment Status

In 1979, there were 14.3 million persons 55 years and older who were employed (Table C). The majority (8.8 million) were males, although the number of employed females (5.5 million) has increased by over 3 million since 1950 compared to an increase of less than one million for men (Table 7). The number of employed pre-elderly males rose between 1950 and 1979, but it did not rise as rapidly as the total number of pre-elderly males. Therefore, the labor force participation rate for this group fell from 87% in 1950 to 73% in 1979. Likewise, the participation rate for elderly females dropped slightly between 1950 and 1979 although the number of employed women 65 years and over doubled during this period.

Industry

Advances in technology and changes in social priorities have altered the industry employment pattern since the end of World War II. Agriculture employed 13% of all workers in 1948, but this proportion shrank to only 4% in 1978. Among non-agricultural industries, the proportion of workers employed in manufacturing decreased from 35% in 1948 to 24% in 1978 while the service sector expanded from 12% to 19%. 5/

The industrial employment patterns of younger (22-54 years) and pre-elderly workers are quite similar to each other, but they differ somewhat from the pattern for elderly workers (Table 8). There are two principal reasons for this difference. Many older workers committed themselves early to industries which no longer attract many young workers (e.g., agriculture). Also, older workers tend to retire from some industries (e.g., manufacturing) earlier because of better pension coverage, compulsory retirement policies, physical demands of the job, or few opportunities for part time positions or self-employment. 6/

Manufacturing employs one-fourth of younger workers, but only one-seventh of elderly workers. Conversely, only 3% of younger workers are employed in personal services (hotels and motels, laundries, beauty and barber shops, shoe repair, dressmaking, etc.) compared to 13% of elderly workers. One of every twenty elderly workers is engaged in agriculture (including forestry and fishing) compared to only one of every sixty-three younger workers.

The differences in industrial employment patterns are even greater between elderly males and females than between older and younger workers. Compared to elderly men, elderly women are underrepresented in all major industry

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5/ U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, p. 264 and p. 319.

6/ See Philip L. Rones, "Older Men --The Choice Between Work and Retirement," Monthly Labor Review, U.S. Department of Labor, November 1978, pp. 7-9.

groups except personal services (defined above) and professional services (medicine, law, education, religion, welfare, etc.). Over half (56%) of elderly female employees worked in these two major industry groups, compared to only 21% of elderly males.

Occupation

The factors that affect the distribution of older workers by industry are similar to those that influence their occupational employment patterns. As with the distribution of workers by industry discussed above, the occupational distributions of younger and pre-elderly workers are similar to each other but different from the distribution of elderly workers. Elderly wage and salary workers are less likely to be employed in blue collar jobs. Only a quarter of them are so employed, compared to one-third of younger workers (Table 9). Blue collar jobs are more frequently unionized, with pension plans and compulsory retirement ages, than other major occupation groups. There are generally fewer part-time and self-employment opportunities in these occupations as well. Occupations in the farm and service sectors are more likely to contain elderly workers. Three of every ten elderly workers are in such occupations compared to only one of eight younger workers.

As with the industrial employment patterns discussed above, the difference in occupations between elderly male and female workers is more striking than the difference between younger and older workers. For example, only three percent of all elderly female wage and salary workers worked as craft or kindred workers, transportation equipment operatives, nonfarm laborers, or as farmers, farm supervisors, or farm laborers. However, one-third (32%) of elderly males worked in these major occupation groups. Compared to elderly females, males were also overrepresented in the professional and managerial occupation group. Females were overrepresented in the clerical and sales,

nontransportation operatives, 7/ and service occupation groups. About 15% of employed elderly women worked as private household workers (maids, cooks, etc.) within the service sector.

Self-Employment

Due to its flexibility in both income and hours, self-employment is very popular among elderly workers and is about twice as prevalent among elderly men than women. In 1979, about a third of elderly men who were still working were self-employed compared to only 16% for pre-elderly males and 11% for younger men (25-54 years). The proportion for elderly females was 15%, compared to 7% and 6% for pre-elderly and younger female workers, respectively (Table 10).

Self-employment is much more common in agriculture than in nonagricultural industries. About three-fourths of the older men engaged in agriculture in 1979 were self-employed, compared to 58% of younger males. Neverthless, one-fourth of elderly men employed in non-agricultural industries were self-employed.

Full or Part-Time Status

Unlike younger workers, a majority of elderly workers work on a part-time schedule (less than 35 hours). About 53% of elderly workers had part-time jobs in 1979 compared to 12% of all workers under 65 years of age (Table 11). Over 90% of elderly part-timers indicated that they had voluntarily chosen part-time work.

7/ Some of the prominent occupations for elderly women in the "nontransportation operative" group include dressmakers and seamstresses, sewers and stitchers, other textile operatives, assemblers, wrappers amd packers, inspectors, ironers and pressers, and other laundry workers. See U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Subject Report PC(2)-7A, "Occupational Characteristics," June 1973, Table 3.

Even among part-time workers, elderly persons worked fewer hours than younger workers. Elderly part-timers worked an average of 17 hours a week in 1979, about 3½ hours less than younger part-timers. Elderly females are more likely to work part-time than men. About 60% of elderly female workers had part-time schedules compared to 48% of men.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Differences by Age

The fluctuations in the unemployment rate of older workers have been quite similar to the fluctuations in the rate for younger (25-54 years) workers in the past three decades (Table 12). [8/] Among males, the unemployment rate for younger workers was generally lower than for older workers during the 1950's and 1960's, and it only briefly exceeded the rates of pre-elderly and elderly males during the peak unemployment years of the 1970's (1971 and 1975). During most of this period, the rates of pre-elderly and elderly workers were nearly identical. However, the rate for pre-elderly men became consistently lower than the rate for elderly men during the late 1960's and has also been consistently lower than the rate for younger males since the mid-1970's. The annual average unemployment rate in 1979 was highest for elderly males (3.5%), followed by younger males (3.4%) and pre-elderly males (2.7%).

Unlike males, the unemployment rate for younger females has been consistently and markedly higher--between 1½ and 2 percentage points per year--than the rates for older females for most of the last 30 years. The rate for elderly females was generally lower than for pre-elderly females during the

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8/ This analysis of unemployment excludes persons 16-24 years. This age group has historically had unemployment rates about twice as high as the rate for the entire labor force.

1950's, but has consistently equaled or exceeded this rate by a slight margin since 1964. The 1979 annual average unemployment rate for younger females was 5.2%, followed by elderly females (3.3%) and pre-elderly females (3.2%).

Differences by Sex

Among younger (25-54) persons in the labor force, the unemployment rate has been consistently higher for females than for males in the last 30 years (Table 12). Among older persons, however, the picture is quite different. The unemployment rate for elderly males was between 0.5 and 2.0 percentage points higher than for elderly females during the 1950's and the first half of the 1960's. The rates converged in the late 1960's and were nearly identical through 1974. Since 1975, the rate for males has again exceeded that for females, but by less than half a percentage point. The rates for pre-elderly males and females were similar during the early 1950's. From the late 1950's to 1966, the rate for pre-elderly men exceeded the rate for females. The rates converged in 1967 and were quite similar again through 1972. Since then, the rate for females has been higher than the rate for males, though only by about ½ percentage point.

Differences by Race

For older and younger workers of both sexes, unemployment has been much more prevalent among persons of minority races (Blacks and others) than among Whites (Table 13). The ratio of the unemployment rate for younger minorities to that for younger Whites has been roughly two-to-one for the last three decades. This ratio has only been slightly less for pre-elderly persons of both sexes and elderly males, although the rate for pre-elderly minority women did drop below the rate for pre-elderly White women for four years during the late 1940's and early 1950's. Only among elderly women has the unemployment rate for Whites often exceeded the rate for minorities. In fact, the rate

for elderly minority women has fluctuated in a much broader range than the rate for White women and has fallen below the rate for White women in 15 of the past 32 years. It should be noted, however, that the rates for minority elderly women are based on rather small numbers and are therefore subject to relatively large sampling error.

Duration of Unemployment

The duration of the period of unemployment increases sharply with age, particularly for men. The following table shows the annual average (mean) number of weeks of unemployment by age and sex: 9/

	Both sexes	Male	Female
16+ years, total	10.8	12.0	9.6
16 to 19 years	7.4	7.9	6.9
20 to 24 years	9.7	10.1	9.3
25 to 34 years	11.1	12.5	9.8
35 to 44 years	13.3	15.7	11.3
45 to 54 years	14.5	16.8	12.1
55 to 64 years	17.0	19.2	14.1
65+ years	16.1	17.3	10.3

For older males, the mean duration of unemployment was 19 weeks, longer than all other age groups and over twice as long as the 8-week duration for the youngest (16-19 years) workers. About 35% of older unemployed males had been looking for work for 15 weeks or more, compared to 29% for males 25-54 years old (Table 14). Among women, the pre-elderly age group had been looking for work longer (14 weeks) than any other age group.

9/ These data are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 18.

DESIRE FOR WORK

The vast majority of older persons who are not in the labor force (either working or actively seeking work) do not indicate a desire to work. For example, only 2% of persons 60+ years old who were not in the labor force in 1979 expressed a desire for a job (Table 15). These persons, who number over half a million (545,000), are not classified as "unemployed" because they are not actively seeking work for a variety of reasons.

The principal reasons for not seeking work were quite similar for males and females. About three-tenths cited poor health and another 28% did not think they could get a job for a variety of personal or job-market factors.

SUMMARY

This report reviewed trends in the labor force participation of older workers, including the declining rate of participation by older men, the growth in participation by pre-elderly women, and the stable participation rate for elderly women. Differences in labor force participation rates by race were also discussed.

Participation is positively correlated with level of educational attainment. Also, older married men are more likely to be in the labor force than other men. For older women, the opposite is true.

Data from the Social Security Administration indicate that the trend toward early retirement is continuing. Several studies show that poor health is most frequently cited as the reason for deciding to retire early.

The industrial and occupational distributions of elderly workers differ from those of younger workers due to such factors as pension coverage, compulsory retirement policies, physical demands of the job, opportunities for part-time work or self-employment, and the need for appropriate education and

training. The frequency of part-time work and self-employment is much greater among older workers.

The report also discussed differences in the level of unemployment among older workers by age, sex, and race, and noted that the duration of unemployment is longer for older workers, particularly men. There were 545,000 persons 60 years and over who expressed a desire for a job but were not actively looking for one because of health or other personal or job-market factors.

The future employment picture for older workers is difficult to predict because of the contradictory forces that will bear on their situation. In the aggregate, the older population will certainly be more numerous, particularly after the turn of the century when the "baby boom" generation reaches the upper ages. Persons entering the ranks of the older population in future years will be better educated and will have worked at higher-paying occupations in industries that were not even born when today's elderly were in their working years. Older workers today have opted for early retirement, and this trend may well continue.

Opposed to these trends will be such forces as the lack of younger workers to adequately support the Social Security system, as well as smaller family networks to provide emotional and economic support to retired persons, if the low birth rates of the last few years continue. The scarcity and high price of nonrenewable energy sources may continue to drive the cost of living up at the expense of many older persons who do not work and must rely on relatively fixed income. These factors and others may force more older people to stay in the labor force longer.

Beyond the demographic and economic forces that will bear upon the future older worker are questions regarding the value of work to the physical and

emotional health of the individual, and the loss of status and direction that some workers encounter upon retirement. Current experiments in phased retirement may become much more widespread if they prove to be a satisfactory answer to some of these questions. There is no doubt that older persons will continue to provide a vast pool of skill and knowledge that can be tapped more thoroughly and efficiently if our society chooses.

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Table 1. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES FOR PERSONS 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY SEX AND AGE: 1950-1979

(Annual averages)

Year	Male			Female		
	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years
1950	86.4	86.9	45.8	33.9	27.0	9.7
1955	85.3	87.9	39.6	35.7	32.5	10.6
1960	83.3	86.8	33.1	37.7	37.2	10.8
1965	80.7	84.6	27.9	39.3	41.1	10.0
1970	79.7	83.0	26.8	43.3	43.0	9.7
1975	77.9	75.8	21.7	46.3	41.0	8.3
1976	77.5	74.5	20.3	47.3	41.1	8.2
1977	77.7	74.0	20.1	48.4	41.0	8.1
1978	77.9	73.5	20.5	50.0	41.4	8.4
1979	77.9	73.0	20.0	51.0	41.9	8.3

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Table A-4, and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 4.

Table 2. TOTAL LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES FOR PERSONS 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY SEX AND AGE: 1970-1979

(Annual averages)

Sex and age	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
MALE										
16 years and over	80.6	80.0	79.7	74.5	79.4	78.5	78.1	78.3	78.4	78.4
45-49 years	95.4	94.9	94.6	94.3	94.0	94.1	93.3	93.2	93.0	93.4
50-54 years	93.1	92.8	91.9	91.7	90.4	90.1	89.9	89.2	89.7	89.6
55-59 years	89.5	88.8	87.4	86.2	85.7	84.4	83.6	83.2	82.9	82.2
60-64 years	75.0	74.1	72.5	69.1	67.9	65.7	63.7	62.9	62.0	61.8
65-69 years	41.6	39.4	36.9	34.2	32.9	31.7	29.3	29.4	30.1	29.6
70 years and over	17.7	17.0	16.7	15.7	15.6	15.1	14.2	13.9	14.2	13.8
FEMALE										
16 years and over	43.4	43.4	43.9	44.7	45.7	46.4	47.4	48.5	50.1	51.1
45-59 years	55.0	55.0	54.4	54.2	55.2	55.9	57.0	57.9	59.8	60.4
50-54 years	53.8	53.5	53.3	53.2	54.1	53.3	53.1	53.7	54.5	56.5
55-59 years	49.0	48.5	48.[illegible]	47.4	47.4	47.9	48.1	48.0	48.6	48.7
60-64 years	36.1	36.4	35.4	34.2	33.4	33.3	33.1	32.9	33.1	33.9
65-69 years	17.3	17.0	17.0	16.0	14.4	14.5	14.9	14.5	14.9	15.3
70 years and over	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.3	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.7

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, January issues from 1971 to 1980 (employment status tables).

Table 3. CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES FOR PERSONS 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY SEX, RACE, AND AGE: 1955-1979

(Annual averages)

Sex and year	White			Black and other			Ratio: Black and other to White		
	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years
MALE									
1955	85.4	88.4	39.5	85.0	83.1	40.0	1.00	.94	1.01
1960	83.4	87.2	33.3	83.0	82.5	31.2	1.00	.95	.94
1965	80.8	85.2	27.9	79.6	78.8	27.9	.99	.92	1.00
1970	80.0	83.3	26.7	76.5	79.2	27.4	.96	.95	1.03
1975	78.7	76.5	21.8	71.5	68.7	20.9	.91	.90	.96
1976	78.4	75.4	20.3	70.7	65.7	19.7	.90	.87	.97
1977	78.5	74.7	20.2	71.0	67.0	19.3	.90	.90	.96
1978	78.6	73.9	20.4	72.1	69.1	21.3	.92	.94	1.04
1979	78.6	73.6	20.1	71.9	66.9	19.6	.91	.91	.98
FEMALE									
1955	34.5	31.8	10.5	46.1	40.7	12.1	1.34	1.28	1.15
1960	36.5	36.2	10.6	48.2	47.3	12.8	1.32	1.31	1.21
1965	38.1	40.3	9.7	48.6	48.9	12.9	1.28	1.21	1.33
1970	42.6	42.6	9.5	49.5	47.1	12.2	1.16	1.11	1.28
1975	45.9	40.7	8.0	49.2	43.8	10.5	1.07	1.08	1.31
1976	46.9	40.8	8.0	50.2	43.4	11.2	1.07	1.06	1.40
1977	48.1	40.8	8.0	50.9	42.7	9.9	1.06	1.05	1.24
1978	49.5	41.2	8.1	53.3	43.6	10.7	1.08	1.06	1.32
1979	50.6	41.6	8.1	53.5	44.3	10.6	1.06	1.06	1.31

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Table A-4, and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 4.

Table 4. TOTAL LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES FOR PERSONS 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY MARITAL STATUS, SEX, AND AGE: MARCH 1950-1978

Sex and year	Single			Married, spouse present			Widowed, divorced, separated		
	16+ 1/ years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ 1/ years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ 1/ years	55-64 years	65+ years
MALE									
1950	62.6	NA	41.0	91.6	NA	53.4	63.0	NA	30.2
1955 2/	61.2	83.6	31.6	90.7	88.8	44.2	60.7	72.7	26.4
1960	58.5	69.7	24.3	88.9	87.9	37.1	59.3	72.6	18.2
1965	50.3	65.1	18.1	87.7	87.1	31.1	55.8	72.6	18.8
1970	60.7	60.2	21.0	86.9	85.7	30.2	54.2	67.8	16.5
1975	66.8	60.9	20.6	82.8	78.9	23.7	65.3	59.8	18.2
1976	66.5	64.3	19.2	82.1	76.9	22.4	63.0	61.4	13.6
1977	67.8	63.1	20.5	82.0	76.4	20.9	65.1	65.6	12.4
1978	69.2	58.0	20.2	81.6	75.1	21.0	67.1	62.5	14.1
FEMALE									
1950	50.5	NA	23.8	23.8	NA	6.4	37.8	NA	8.8
1955 2/	46.4	69.1	26.0	27.7	21.3	7.5	39.6	45.1	10.7
1960	44.1	67.0	21.6	30.5	24.3	5.9	40.0	50.7	11.0
1965	40.5	68.1	21.3	34.7	31.4	7.6	38.9	53.3	10.0
1970	53.0	63.7	17.6	40.8	35.8	7.9	39.1	54.6	9.9
1975	56.8	60.2	16.0	44.4	35.7	7.2	40.8	53.4	8.1
1976	58.9	64.5	16.7	45.0	36.4	7.2	40.9	51.2	8.4
1977	58.9	64.4	15.8	46.6	36.1	7.0	41.8	49.1	8.6
1978	60.5	61.4	17.0	47.6	36.4	6.5	42.8	51.1	8.7

NA - Not available.
1/ Data for 1950-1965 include persons 14 and 15 years old.
2/ Refers to April, all other years refer to March.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Table B-2.

Table 5. LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES OF PERSONS 55 YEARS AND OVER, BY YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED, AGE, AND SEX: MARCH 1979

Years of school completed	Male		Female	
	55-64 years	65+ years	55-64 years	65+ years
Total	72.9	19.9	42.7	8.7
Elementary:				
Less than 5 years [1]	55.2	13.9	26.1	4.2
5 to 7 years	59.7	13.8	31.3	5.0
8 years	64.3	13.9	33.9	6.2
High school:				
1 to 3 years	66.9	19.9	39.1	8.2
4 years	76.8	25.8	46.4	12.2
College:				
1 to 3 years	80.2	26.1	50.2	11.8
4 years	83.3	25.6	46.2	10.7
5 years or more	87.5	39.5	59.8	16.2

[1] Includes persons reporting no school year completed.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Labor Force Special Studies, unpublished data from the March 1979 Current Population Survey.

Table 6. YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED OF PERSONS 55 YEARS AND OVER, BY LABOR FORCE STATUS, AGE, AND SEX: MARCH 1979

Years of school completed	Male				Female			
	55-64 years		65+ years		55-64 years		65+ years	
	In labor force	Not in labor force	In labor force	Not in labor force	In labor force	Not in labor force	In labor force	Not in labor force
Number (thousands)	7,102	2,642	1,900	7,648	4,651	6,236	1,184	12,443
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elementary:								
Less than 5 years [1/] ..	3.3	7.3	7.5	11.5	2.1	4.4	3.9	8.5
5 to 7 years	7.1	12.9	10.6	16.4	5.7	9.3	7.7	13.9
8 years	10.9	16.2	14.4	22.2	8.9	13.0	15.0	21.5
High school:								
1 to 3 years	14.1	18.8	15.3	15.3	15.4	18.0	15.2	16.2
4 years	34.5	28.1	26.8	19.1	44.9	38.7	35.3	24.2
College:								
1 to 3 years	13.4	8.9	10.3	7.3	13.1	9.7	11.7	8.3
4 years	8.9	4.8	7.2	5.2	5.3	4.6	6.2	4.9
5 years or more	7.7	3.0	7.9	3.0	4.6	2.3	5.2	2.5
Median school years completed	12.4	11.2	12.1	9.0	12.4	12.1	12.2	10.1

1/ Includes persons reporting no school year completed.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Labor Force Special Studies, unpublished data from March 1979 Current Population Survey.

Table 7. EMPLOYED PERSONS 55 YEARS AND OVER, BY RACE, AGE, AND SEX: 1950-1979

(Annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and year	All races		White		Black and other	
	55-64 years	65+ years	55-64 years	65+ years	55-64 years	65+ years
BOTH SEXES						
1950	7,265	2,899	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1955	8,158	3,185	7,510	2,954	648	228
1960	8,989	3,073	8,192	2,855	797	218
1965	10,028	3,005	9,116	2,748	912	258
1970	10,968	3,117	9,975	2,834	993	283
1975	10,711	2,784	9,734	2,512	977	271
1976	10,774	2,727	9,812	2,445	962	282
1977	10,966	2,763	9,979	2,489	987	275
1978	11,217	2,919	10,165	2,609	1,052	311
1979	11,380	2,969	10,313	2,663	1,067	307
MALE						
1950	5,508	2,336	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1955	5,857	2,424	5,431	2,254	426	170
1960	6,106	2,191	5,618	2,043	487	148
1965	6,542	2,057	5,998	1,892	543	165
1970	6,926	2,094	6,338	1,913	588	181
1975	6,683	1,803	6,127	1,644	556	159
1976	6,677	1,722	6,137	1,565	540	156
1977	6,794	1,749	6,233	1,589	560	160
1978	6,892	1,842	6,287	1,658	605	184
1979	6,946	1,861	6,348	1,686	598	176
FEMALE						
1950	1,757	563	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
1955	2,301	761	2,079	703	222	58
1960	2,884	882	2,574	812	310	70
1965	3,486	948	3,118	856	369	93
1970	4,042	1,023	3,637	921	405	102
1975	4,028	980	3,607	868	421	112
1976	4,097	1,006	3,675	880	422	126
1977	4,173	1,015	3,746	900	427	115
1978	4,325	1,077	3,878	950	447	127
1979	4,434	1,108	3,965	977	469	131

(NA) Not available.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Table A-15, and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 3.

Table 8. INDUSTRY OF LONGEST JOB OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS 22 YEARS AND OVER WHO WORKED IN 1977, BY AGE AND SEX: MARCH 1978

Industry	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	22-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	22-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	22-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
Number (thousands)..	66,647	11,049	3,069	37,518	6,440	1,704	29,129	4,608	1,365
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries..	1.6	1.9	4.7	2.1	2.4	7.5	1.0	1.2	1.2
Mining and construction	7.8	7.3	6.3	12.3	11.2	9.6	2.0	2.0	2.2
Manufacturing	25.3	26.9	14.8	30.4	32.4	17.5	18.7	19.1	11.4
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	7.3	6.4	3.0	9.8	9.3	4.7	4.2	2.4	0.9
Wholesale and retail trade	17.7	17.7	20.1	16.4	15.2	21.6	19.4	21.2	18.3
Personal services ..	3.0	5.0	12.9	1.3	1.5	5.2	5.3	9.7	22.5
Professional services	22.0	18.8	23.4	12.5	11.0	15.8	34.2	29.8	33.0
Public administration	6.3	7.7	5.2	7.3	9.0	6.0	4.9	5.9	4.2
All other industries 1/	8.9	8.3	9.6	7.9	8.0	12.1	10.2	8.7	6.4

1/ Includes 1) finance, insurance, and real estate, 2) business and repair services, 3) entertainment and recreation services, and 4) persons whose industry was not reported.

Note: Data exclude self-employed persons and unpaid family workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey.

Table 9. OCCUPATION OF LONGEST JOB OF WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS 22 YEARS AND OVER WHO WORKED IN 1977, BY AGE AND SEX: MARCH 1978

Occupation	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	22-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	22-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	22-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
Number (thousands)..	66,647	11,049	3,069	37,518	6,440	1,704	29,129	4,608	1,365
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White collar	52.8	48.5	46.4	43.1	41.8	42.3	65.3	57.8	51.5
Professional and managerial	28.2	24.6	22.3	31.1	28.6	25.4	24.5	19.0	18.5
Clerical and sales	24.6	23.9	24.1	11.9	13.2	17.0	40.9	38.8	33.0
Blue collar	34.0	34.4	23.6	47.9	46.7	33.3	16.0	17.1	11.5
Craft and kindred workers	13.5	13.9	7.5	22.6	22.5	13.0	1.8	1.8	0.7
Operatives, except transport	12.2	12.9	8.5	12.2	12.0	7.3	12.3	14.1	9.9
Transport equipment operatives	3.9	3.8	2.8	6.4	6.3	5.1	0.7	0.4	-
Laborers, except farm	4.3	3.8	4.8	6.8	5.9	7.9	1.0	0.8	1.0
Farm laborers, managers, and supervisors	1.1	1.3	3.6	1.4	1.8	5.6	0.7	0.7	1.1
Service	12.1	15.8	26.4	7.6	9.8	18.8	18.0	24.3	35.9
Service workers, except private household	11.2	13.6	19.5	7.6	9.6	18.7	16.0	19.1	20.6
Private household workers	0.9	2.2	6.9	-	0.2	0.1	2.0	5.2	15.3

- Represents zero.

Note: Data exclude self-employed persons and unpaid family workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey.

Table 10. CLASS OF WORKER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER, BY TYPE OF INDUSTRY, SEX, AND AGE: 1979

(Annual averages)

Class of worker by type of industry	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	25-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	25-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	25-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
NUMBER (000's)									
Employed persons, total	60,720	11,380	2,969	35,922	6,946	1,860	24,798	4,433	1,108
Wage and salary workers	54,798	9,832	2,154	31,896	5,821	1,248	22,902	4,011	905
Self-employed	5,464	1,448	773	4,006	1,121	605	1,460	327	168
Unpaid family workers	458	100	42	20	4	7	436	95	35
In nonagricultural industries .	59,011	10,875	2,642	34,609	6,524	1,569	24,400	4,351	1,072
Wage and salary workers	54,108	9,714	2,076	31,359	5,723	1,177	22,749	3,991	898
Private industry	42,715	7,468	1,566	25,785	4,666	957	16,929	2,802	609
Government	10,917	2,025	337	5,538	1,043	194	5,378	982	143
Private household	477	220	173	36	14	26	440	207	147
Self-employed	4,593	1,097	540	3,242	798	388	1,351	299	152
Unpaid family workers	310	64	26	8	3	4	300	61	22
In agriculture	1,709	505	327	1,313	422	291	398	82	36
Wage and salary workers	690	118	78	537	98	71	153	20	7
Self-employed	871	351	233	764	323	217	109	28	16
Unpaid family workers	148	36	16	12	1	3	136	34	13
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Employed persons, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wage and salary workers	90.2	86.4	72.5	88.8	83.8	67.1	92.4	90.5	81.7
Self-employed	9.0	12.7	26.0	11.2	16.1	32.5	5.9	7.4	15.2
Unpaid family workers	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.8	2.1	3.2
In nonagricultural industries .	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wage and salary workers	91.7	89.3	78.6	90.6	87.7	75.0	93.2	91.7	83.8
Private industry	72.4	68.7	59.3	74.5	71.5	61.0	69.4	64.4	56.8
Government	18.5	18.6	12.8	16.0	16.0	12.4	22.0	22.6	13.3
Private household	0.8	2.0	6.5	0.1	0.2	1.7	1.8	4.8	13.7
Self-employed	7.8	10.1	20.4	9.4	12.2	24.7	5.5	6.9	14.2
Unpaid family workers	0.5	0.6	1.0	-	-	0.3	1.2	1.4	2.1
In agriculture	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wage and salary workers	40.4	23.4	23.9	40.9	23.2	24.4	38.4	24.4	19.4
Self-employed	51.0	69.5	71.3	58.2	76.5	74.6	27.4	34.1	44.4
Unpaid family workers	8.7	7.1	4.9	0.9	0.2	1.0	34.2	41.5	36.1

- Represents zero.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 24.

Table 11. FULL OR PART-TIME STATUS OF PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER AT WORK, BY SEX AND AGE: 1979

(Annual averages)

Full or part-time status	Both sexes			Male			Female		
	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years
NUMBER (000's)									
At work, total [1]	40,703	24,744	2,404	24,006	14,779	1,431	16,697	9,965	973
Part-time	4,816	3,104	1,271	950	669	683	3,864	2,436	586
Economic reasons	1,196	690	102	497	276	53	697	415	47
Voluntary part-time	3,620	2,414	1,169	453	393	630	3,167	2,021	539
Full-time	35,887	21,640	1,133	23,056	14,110	748	12,833	7,529	387
40 hours or less	23,523	14,820	798	13,320	8,719	505	10,205	6,102	295
41 hours or more	12,364	6,820	335	9,736	5,391	243	2,628	1,427	92
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
At work, total [1]	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time	11.8	12.5	52.9	4.0	4.5	47.7	23.1	24.4	60.2
Economic reasons	2.9	2.8	4.2	2.1	1.9	3.7	4.2	4.2	4.8
Voluntary part-time	8.9	9.8	48.6	1.9	2.7	44.0	19.0	20.3	55.4
Full-time	88.2	87.5	47.1	96.0	95.5	52.3	76.9	75.6	39.8
40 hours or less	57.8	59.9	33.2	55.5	59.0	35.3	61.1	61.2	30.3
41 hours or more	30.4	27.6	13.9	40.6	36.5	17.0	15.7	14.3	9.5
AVERAGE HOURS PER WEEK									
At work, total [1]	40.5	40.1	29.0	43.9	43.1	30.5	35.6	35.4	26.7
Part-time	20.4	20.6	17.1	24.5	19.9	17.0	20.0	20.3	16.9
Full-time	43.2	42.9	42.4	44.7	44.2	42.8	40.3	40.3	41.5

[1] Includes persons with a job and at work during survey week. Excludes persons with a job but not at work because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management dispute, or personal reasons.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 35.

Table 12. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER, BY AGE AND SEX: 1950-1979

(Annual averages)

Sex and Year	25-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
BOTH SEXES			
1950	4.3	4.8	4.5
1955	3.5	4.2	3.6
1960	4.5	4.2	3.8
1965	3.7	3.1	3.3
1970	3.4	2.7	3.2
1975	6.4	4.6	5.3
1976	5.7	4.5	5.1
1977	5.1	3.9	5.1
1978	4.2	2.9	4.0
1979	4.1	2.9	3.4
MALE			
1950	4.0	4.9	4.8
1955	3.2	4.3	4.0
1960	4.2	4.6	4.2
1965	2.7	3.3	3.5
1970	2.8	2.8	3.3
1975	5.7	4.3	5.4
1976	4.9	4.2	5.2
1977	4.3	3.5	5.2
1978	3.4	2.7	4.2
1979	3.4	2.7	3.5
FEMALE			
1950	4.9	4.5	3.4
1955	4.3	3.8	2.3
1960	5.0	3.4	2.8
1965	4.3	2.8	2.8
1970	4.4	2.7	3.1
1975	7.5	5.1	5.1
1976	6.8	4.9	5.0
1977	6.4	4.5	4.7
1978	5.4	3.2	3.8
1979	5.2	3.2	3.3

Source: U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Tables A-3 and A-20; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 3.

Table 13. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR PERSONS 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY SEX, RACE, AND AGE: 1950-1979

(Annual averages)

Sex and year	White			Black and other			Ratio: Black and other to White		
	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ years	55-64 years	65+ years
MALE									
1950	4.7	4.7	4.6	9.4	8.0	7.0	2.00	1.70	1.52
1955	3.7	3.9	3.8	8.8	9.0	7.1	2.38	2.31	1.87
1960	4.8	4.1	4.0	10.7	9.5	6.3	2.23	2.32	1.58
1965	3.6	3.1	3.4	7.4	5.4	5.2	2.06	1.74	1.53
1970	4.0	2.7	3.2	7.3	3.4	3.8	1.83	1.26	1.19
1975	7.2	4.1	5.0	13.7	6.1	9.5	1.90	1.49	1.90
1976	6.4	4.0	4.8	12.7	6.2	9.3	1.98	1.55	1.94
1977	5.5	3.3	4.9	12.4	6.4	8.3	2.25	1.94	1.69
1978	4.5	2.6	3.9	10.9	4.4	7.1	2.42	1.69	1.82
1979	4.4	2.5	3.1	10.3	4.8	6.3	2.34	1.92	2.03
FEMALE									
1950	5.3	4.3	3.1	8.4	4.8	5.7	1.58	1.12	1.84
1955	4.3	3.6	2.2	8.4	5.5	3.3	1.95	1.53	1.50
1960	5.3	3.3	2.8	9.4	4.3	4.1	1.77	1.30	1.46
1965	5.0	2.7	2.7	9.2	3.9	3.1	1.84	1.44	1.15
1970	5.4	2.6	3.3	9.3	3.2	1.9	1.72	1.23	.58
1975	8.6	5.1	5.3	14.0	5.3	3.1	1.63	1.04	.58
1976	7.9	4.8	5.3	13.6	5.5	2.6	1.72	1.15	.49
1977	7.3	4.4	4.9	14.0	4.9	3.6	1.92	1.11	.73
1978	6.2	3.0	3.7	13.1	5.1	4.8	2.11	1.70	1.30
1979	5.9	3.0	3.1	12.3	4.6	4.6	2.08	1.53	1.48

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Employment and Training Report of the President, 1979, Table A-21, and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 3.

Table 14. DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS 16 YEARS AND OVER, BY SEX AND AGE: 1979

(Annual averages. Numbers in thousands)

Sex and duration of unemployment	Number of unemployed				Percent distribution			
	16+ years	25-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	16+ years	25-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years
Male	3,018	1,258	193	67	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks.	1,345	476	66	23	44.6	37.8	34.1	33.8
5-14 weeks	979	415	60	21	32.4	33.0	30.9	31.9
15-26 weeks	385	192	30	11	12.8	15.3	15.6	16.4
27 weeks and over.	309	176	37	12	10.2	14.0	19.4	17.9
Average (mean) duration	12.0	14.3	19.2	19.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Median duration ..	6.1	(NA)	9.3	9.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Female	2,945	1,358	145	38	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 5 weeks.	1,524	655	61	16	51.7	48.2	42.2	42.9
5-14 weeks	913	426	45	15	31.1	31.4	31.3	38.9
15-26 weeks	299	162	18	4	10.1	11.9	12.2	10.4
27 weeks and over.	209	116	21	3	7.1	8.5	14.3	7.8
Average (mean) duration	9.6	10.7	14.1	10.3	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Median duration ..	4.8	(NA)	6.7	6.2	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

(NA) Not available.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Table 18.

Table 15. JOB DESIRE AND REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING WORK OF PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER NOT IN LABOR FORCE, BY AGE AND SEX: 1979

(Annual averages)

Job desire and reasons for not seeking work by sex	Number (in 000's)		Percent distribution by job desire	
	25-59 years	60+ years	25-59 years	60+ years
MALE				
Total not in labor force ..	3,153	9,379	(X)	(X)
Do not want job now	2,665	9,104	100.0	100.0
As % of total not in labor force	84.5	97.1	(X)	(X)
Current activity:				
Going to school	260	6	9.8	0.1
Ill, disabled.....	1,214	1,156	45.6	12.7
Keeping house	69	193	2.6	2.1
Retired	175	7,301	6.6	80.2
Other	947	448	35.5	4.9
Want a job now	486	271	100.0	100.0
As % of total not in labor force	15.4	2.9	(X)	(X)
Reason not looking:				
School attendance	55	2	11.3	0.7
Ill health, disability	205	90	42.2	33.2
Think cannot get job	95	75	19.5	27.7
Personal factors	24	42	4.9	15.5
Employer thinks too young or old	4	38	0.8	14.0
Lacks education or training	12	2	2.5	0.7
Other personal handicap	8	2	1.6	0.7
Job-market factors	70	34	14.4	12.5
Could not find job	37	12	7.6	4.4
Thinks no job available	33	22	6.8	8.1
Other reasons 1/.....	131	104	27.0	38.4
FEMALE				
Total not in labor force ..	18,890	15,915	(X)	(X)
Do not want job now	16,871	15,642	100.0	100.0
As % of total not in labor force	89.3	98.3	(X)	(X)
Current activity:				
Going to school	297	14	1.8	0.1
Ill, disabled	954	1,040	5.7	6.6
Keeping house	14,602	11,994	86.6	76.7
Retired	29	2,427	0.2	15.5
Other	989	167	5.9	1.1
Want a job now	2,018	274	100.0	100.0
As % of total not in labor force	10.7	1.7	(X)	(X)
Reason for not looking:				
School attendance	112	3	5.6	1.1
Ill health, disability	282	80	14.0	29.2
Home responsibilities	881	33	43.7	12.0
Think cannot get job	281	76	13.9	27.7
Personal factors	75	43	3.7	15.7
Employer thinks to young or old	17	38	0.8	13.9
Lacks education or training	43	1	2.1	0.4
Other personal handicap	15	4	0.7	1.5
Job-market factors	204	35	10.1	12.8
Could not find job	99	21	4.9	7.7
Thinks no job available	105	14	5.2	5.1
Other reasons	462	82	22.9	29.9

(X) Not applicable.

1/ Includes small number of men not looking for work because of "home responsibilities."

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol. 27, No. 1, January 1980, Tables 39 and 41.

*U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1980-0-720-019/4508